

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION
CALLED FOR DECEMBER 9**

Faced with a budget shortfall of more than \$21 billion, Gov. Gray Davis Thursday issued a [press release](#) announcing that he would be calling the Legislature into a rare special session beginning Monday, December 9, to consider a package of cuts and other measures to cover \$5 billion of the growing gap.

Davis said the package will not include tax or fee increases, but he left open the possibility that tax and fee hikes will be part of the budget he proposes in January for the coming fiscal year.

The special session would take place the week after the newly-elected Legislature returns December 2 to organize and elect officers – and for the 32 new members of the Assembly and one new Senator (i.e., who hasn't previously served in the Assembly) to receive their initial orientation and training.

Davis predicted that the 2003-04 budget shortfall will soar beyond the \$21.1 billion projected earlier this month by the nonpartisan [Legislative Analyst's office](#), and he said he is imposing a freeze on much state spending.

**ELECTION RESULTS
ALMOST COMPLETE**

Last week we talked about three races that were still undecided 10 days after the election. Today we can report that only one race remains undecided – the Assembly's 30th district that includes Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties.

According to the [Secretary of State's](#) latest count, Democrat Nicole Parra leads her Republican opponent Dean Gardner by only 187 votes. There are still ballots to count and some ballots could be contested as to their validity. The [Bakersfield Californian](#) stated:..."in Kern, at least, the counting process will be a Florida-like circus, with representatives from the Democratic and Republican parties sitting alongside an election official examining each ballot, bringing challenges and possibly arguing over whether the ballot is counted."

The other two races have finally been settled with winners declared and losers conceding. In the Senate's 12th district, Democrat [Rusty Areias](#) conceded defeat to Republican [Jeff Denham](#). The margin of victory in this race was less than, 1,850 votes. With Denham's victory, the Senate's party affiliation for the 2003-04 session will be 25 Democrats and 15 Republicans, for a net gain of one member for the Republicans.

The third race was for the office of Controller. With over seven million votes cast, Democrat [Steve Westly](#) achieved a narrow victory over Republican [Tom McClintock](#). McClintock will continue to serve in the state Senate, where he is not termed out until 2008.

Westly's 23,000-vote win means the Democrats won every statewide office in California. This is the first time the Democrats have been able to pull off a sweep like this since 1882.

**BRUSAVICH HEADS
CONSUMER ATTORNEYS**

[Bruce M. Brusavich](#) of Los Angeles was installed as president of the [Consumer Attorneys of California](#) for 2003 at the organization's annual installation and awards dinner last weekend in Santa Monica.

The CAOC also presented "Legislator of the Year" awards to Senate President Pro Tem [John Burton](#) and Assembly Speaker [Herb Wesson](#), in part because of their co-authorship of two key measures sponsored by CAOC ([SB 688](#), the summary judgment/statute of limitations bill, and SB 800, relating to construction defects).

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE DATES

- December 2, 2002 -- Convening of the 2003-04 Regular Session.
- December 9, 2002 -- Convening of a Special Session related to the budget deficit.
- January 6, 2003 -- Regular Session of the Legislature starts again.